

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room

**Attendance:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Selectman Samantha Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1- Call to Order:** First Selectman Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
- 2- Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Weston Girl Scouts
- 3- Proclamation for Girls Scout Week:** First Selectman Spaulding presented the Girl Scouts with a proclamation.
- 4- Discussion/decision about the school campus wetlands mitigation compliance review:** Ms. Cori Rose, US Army Corps of Engineers, Senior Project Manager, joined by phone. Mr. Luiz explained that the wetlands being discussed is one of five areas on the school campus where wetlands were created by the Town in consideration of the Town filling in wetlands in other areas with the prior approval of the Army Corps of Engineers. This property has been monitored over the last 4 years by an outside consultant hired by the Town. The consultant reports its findings to the Town and to the Army Corps of. Mr. Luiz explained, and Ms. Rose confirmed, that the Town was presented with a choice of two options to move forward. One option is to pay a \$43,667 Connecticut In-Lieu-Fee, paid to Audubon Connecticut, that would then put the town in compliance. The other option is to continue to try and mitigate the wetlands issues over the next 5 years, which would cost the town approximately \$60,000 per the Town's outside consultant. The Board of Selectman mutually agreed it was more cost effective to pay the In-Lieu-Fee and no longer be considered non-compliant. Selectman Grozinger moved to accept the Army Corp of Engineers' offer to participate in the Connecticut In Lieu Fee Program and to authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$43,667 to the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Board of Selectmen Operating Budget's General Administration, Community Grants line, #110-59809 so that a \$43,667 fee be paid to Audubon Connecticut, subject to Town Attorney review and approval. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5- Discussion/decision to appoint Stephanie Miller to the Board of Education for a term to end November 2, 2019.** Selectman Nestor moved to appoint Stephanie Miller to the Board of Education for a term to end November 5, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried

unanimously. Town Clerk, Donna Anastasia, then swore Ms. Miller in.

- 6- **Presentation by members of the Marketing Advisory Committee** – Marketing and Communications Committee Chairman Peter Blau and member Andrew Palladino made a presentation that was essentially a marketing plan for the Town of Weston. The plan was warmly received by the Selectmen.
- 7- **Discussion/decision about converting the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed via machine ballot vote:** First Selectman Spaulding explained that this position is better suited to be an appointed position. It is a very technical position, requiring someone having a lot of experience and training. He also explained that the job duties of the Town Clerk are truly non-political. First Selectman Spaulding said changing it to an appointed position also protects the town when it is time to replace Ms. Anastasia as we wouldn't be limited to filling this position with a town resident. He said that rather, the focus and main priority would be to find someone who is properly trained. First Selectman Spaulding explained that making this change would require a Special Town Meeting for discussion purposes and a machine ballot vote. Ms. Anastasia thanked the Republican Town Committee for giving her this career and she also thanked the Democratic Town Committee for making this transition easy.

Selectman Grozinger moved to adopt the following resolution: "Whereas, the Board of Selectmen seeks to ensure that future Town Clerks are appointed solely on the basis of education, job knowledge, skills, and relevant experience; Whereas, the Board of Selectmen seeks to transition existing elected Town Clerk Donna Anastasia as the appointed Town Clerk; Therefore, the Board of Selectmen shall establish a Special Town Meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 9, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room for the purpose of considering and discussing whether the Town Clerk should be an appointed position, and that the question of whether the Town Clerk should be an appointed position be determined by machine ballot on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 8pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room, subject to availability of the Registrars". Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8- **Discussion/decision to accept the resignation of Jens Buettner from the Sustainability Committee effective March 21, 2019** Selectman Nestor moved to accept the resignation of Jens Buettner from the Sustainability Committee, effective March 21, 2019. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9- **Discussion/decision to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with Granicus for a new municipal website** First Selectman Spaulding explained the RFP and interview process. He said that the Town picked 5 companies to interview and it was a unanimous decision that Granicus best met the Town's needs. Selectman Grozinger moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter an agreement with Granicus for a new municipal website, pending review of the agreement by the Town Attorney. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried

unanimously.

**10- Discussion/decision to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with Jacunski Humes Architects for architectural work related to renovation of the Police Department and Town Hall, and the expansion of Fire Station 1 for dedicated EMS office and bunk space**

First Selectman Spaulding stated that funding has been pre-approved and the next steps are to have Jacunski Humes Architects move ahead with the plans, working with the Building Committee, and then going out to bid. Selectman Nestor moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into the presented agreement with Jacunski Humes Architects for architectural work related to renovation of the Police Department and Town Hall, and the expansion of Fire Station 1 for dedicated EMS office and bunk space. Selectman Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**11- Property Tax Refunds.** Selectman Grozinger moved to approve the property tax refunds totaling \$3,321.64 as presented. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**12- Minutes Approval – March 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>** Selectman Nestor moved to approve the unapproved minutes of the March 7, 2019 and March 12, 2019 Board of Selectmen meetings, as presented. Selectman Grozinger seconded .Motion carried unanimously.

**13- Executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy and potential real estate purchase.** Selectman Grozinger moved to enter into executive session at 8:55pm to discuss collective bargaining strategy and potential real estate purchase. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Beth Gralnick and Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz were invited to join the session. Executive session ended at 9:28pm.

**14- Discussion/decision to approve a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Weston and the Weston Police Union and the United Public Service Employees Union.** Selectman Grozinger moved to approve a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Weston and the Weston Police Union and the United Public Service Employees Union, as presented, with the exception that language be included that reflects the police captain being excluded from the bargaining unit. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**15- Adjournment:** Selectman Grozinger moved to adjourn at 9:30pm. Selectman Nestor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by,  
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved: April 4, 2019